



Catawba County Public Health
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CATAWBA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH RECEIVES PUBLIC SECTOR STAR AWARD

HICKORY, NC – As part of its safety recognition program, the N.C. Department of Labor certified Catawba County Public Health as a Public Sector Star site for the second time in a row. State Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry attended a ceremony at Public Health on Monday, Aug. 15, to present employees with a certificate of recognition.

Catawba County Public Health is the third health department in North Carolina to be recognized as a Public Sector Star site. There are now four total Star sites in Catawba County and 151 across the state. Catawba County Public Health first earned the Star certification in 2013. The first recertification occurs after three years and subsequent recertifications are every five years.

The Carolina Star, including the Public Sector Star award, is the most prestigious safety recognition given by the N.C. Department of Labor. Organizations that qualify for the award have exemplary safety and health programs in the workplace. The Star Program recognizes excellence in site-specific occupational safety and health management systems. Star Program participants have effective safety and health management systems that serve as models for other businesses.

“Being a Public Sector Star site shows the community that you are committed to a safe work environment,” said Berry. “I encourage local businesses and other public sector agencies to follow Catawba County Public Health’s lead. You have set the bar very high for all other businesses in the area and in the state by achieving this recognition.”

“We sought this recognition in part to show our commitment to bringing about a culture of quality safety and health in our own workplace and in the community,” said Doug Urland, health director, Catawba County Public Health. “Being recertified as a Public Sector Star site is a testament to our employees for all the hard work they’ve put into achieving the highest safety standard in the state.”

Carolina and Public Sector Star sites are determined through an application process. Organizations applying for the recognition must fill out a multi-page, multi-question application including topics such as emergency programs and drills, as well as injury and illness rates. Applicants also undergo an onsite evaluation including document review, a walk-through to identify hazards, and employee interviews.

Catawba County Public Health promotes and protects the health of all Catawba County residents through preventive services, innovative partnerships, and community health improvement initiatives. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

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ELECTRONIC PHOTO CAPTION: Catawba County Public Health employees were honored with the Public Sector Star safety designation, which was presented to staff by N.C. Department of Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry.

“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”

